



United States Department of Agriculture

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

www.csrees.usda.gov

CSREES Rangeland and Grasslands program addresses critical issues

Did you know that almost half of the United States land surface is made up of grasslands? These economically, socially and ecologically important lands provide significant forage to the farming and ranching industry.

However, grasslands are becoming endangered due to urbanization, wild fires, invasive species, changing land use and technology, climate change and insufficient water. These forces work together to alter vegetation, interrupt hydrologic function, decrease biodiversity and disrupt the flow of ecosystem services.

USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) seeks to ensure the sustainability of one of our nation's most vital resources. Through research related to water quality and quantity, erosion, habitat needs and prevention of habitat fragmentation, researchers are learning to scientifically evaluate rangelands and grasslands so owners can better understand them and make the appropriate land-use decisions.

CSREES began the Rangelands and Grasslands program in 2007 and partners with USDA, university and other federal, state

and private entities to deliver research, education and extension efforts to help reverse current and prevent future grassland losses, while maintaining long-term productivity and value.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education, and extension programs, CSREES focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues that impact people's daily lives and the nation's future. More information about the CSREES Rangelands and Grasslands program is available online at www.csrees.usda.gov/rangelandsandgrasslands.